

WINCHESTER TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 26, 2009

The regular, March monthly meeting of the Winchester Tree Commission was held on Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Administration Building at City Yards.

Mr. Farris, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Ms. Stickley made a motion to accept the February minutes; seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

Ms. Major made a motion to accept the special meeting minutes for March 6, 2009; seconded by Ms. Christen, motion was approved.

Members present: Ms. Allison Major, Ms. Mary Stickley, Mr. T'ai Roulston, Mr. Patrick Farris, Ms. Chris Scully and Ms. Kate Christen.

Staff present: Clint Cantrell, Tim Stern and Tom Hoy.

Guests present: Mr. Mac Wilbur, Mr. Eddy Hindt and Mr. Rick Leonard.

Mr. Wilbur stated that he is present to discuss the two trees at 710 and 714 S. Cameron Street. Mr. Wilbur stated that the trees are impeding the sewage drains. Mr. Wilbur stated that one of the trees hangs over the curb. Mr. Wilbur stated that four or five of his customers have scratched their cars or knocked off their mirrors on the tree. Mr. Wilbur stated that every month he puts root killer into the drains and every three months he has to have the drains snaked out. Mr. Wilbur stated that he has had roof damage and phone lines knocked down by tree limbs. Mr. Wilbur stated that the trees are a nuisance. Mr. Farris stated that the Tree Commission typically reviews trees and makes recommendations based on the health of the tree and whether or not it is a liability. Mr. Farris stated that the criteria for removal is whether or not the tree is dead, dying, diseased or damaged. Mr. Farris informed Mr. Wilbur that he is welcome to stay for the discussion of his request. Mr. Farris stated that if Mr. Wilbur does not wish to stay, Tim Stern will be sending him a letter to let him know what the Tree Commission's decision was. Mr. Farris also informed Mr. Wilbur that there is an appeals process if he disagrees with the Commission's decision.

Old Business:

- 1) **Arbor Day Essay Contest:** Mr. Farris stated that Tim Stern has passed out the contest flyers to the City elementary schools. Mr. Farris stated that he has sent an email to all 4th grade teachers in the city.

- 2) **Arbor Day event:** Mr. Farris stated that Mr. Leonard is present to speak to the Tree Commission about the event. Mr. Leonard stated that he is the Assistant Superintendent of Winchester Public Schools. Mr. Leonard stated that they have formed a landscape rehabilitation committee to address long range planning in partnership with the Garden Club of Virginia. Mr. Leonard stated that the school system was able to get a commitment from the Garden Club of Virginia to refurbish the Handley High School campus. Mr. Leonard stated that they have decided on an appropriate tree species and a planting location for the Arbor Day event in consult with the landscape architect. Mr. Leonard stated that he is present to make the Tree Commission aware of the plans and hopefully to obtain the Tree Commission's endorsement. Mr. Leonard stated that there is a three phase plan over a multi-year period to restore the Handley campus to the way it was intended. Mr. Leonard stated that the Arbor Day event would be a celebration and a kick-off. Mr. Leonard stated that by the time of the event the first phase of the Garden Club planting should be in place. Mr. Farris thanked Mr. Leonard for attending the meeting. Mr. Farris stated that the student who wins the essay contest is awarded a tree for their school. Mr. Farris stated that he thinks it would be good to compliment that planting with one at Handley High School. Mr. Farris stated that this is the anniversary of the birth year of Abraham Lincoln, Charles Darwin and Edgar Allen Poe. Mr. Farris stated that he thinks the Biology club might want to adopt a Darwin tree and the English club might want to adopt a Poe tree and the History club an Abraham Lincoln tree. Mr. Farris stated that this would allow planting three trees instead of one. Ms. Major stated that those ideas would have to go through Mr. Will Riley first. Mr. Farris stated that there has been a lot of public interest in the Handley campus. Mr. Farris stated that the press is invited to the Arbor Day event and snacks and refreshments are available. Mr. Farris stated that the Arbor Day event is a once a year opportunity to advertise to the public that they can be involved in improving the tree canopy through their citizenship. Tim Stern stated that Blue Ridge Landscape and Design is interested in donating one tree for the event. Ms. Major stated that the approved tree is an American Beech. Mr. Farris asked Ms. Major to check with Mr. Riley for approval of planting three trees instead of one. Mr. Farris stated that he would be responsible for keeping in touch with Mr. Leonard to get names of teachers who are responsible for clubs to make sure that the trees are paid for and so the kids can participate as well. Ms. Major asked what kind of publicity is done before the event. Ms. Major stated that she thinks invitations or some type of notification should be distributed to the neighborhood around Handley. Mr. Farris stated that he sends a press release to the local newspapers and radio stations. Mr. Farris stated that he would work with Tom Hoy to make sure the press release goes out.
- 3) **Tree Planting, March 28th at FDES:** Mr. Farris stated that the planting will take place at Frederick Douglass Elementary School and along Tevis Drive.

New Business:

1) Discussion of Tree Removal/Trimming requests:

Mr. Farris stated that there are two different tree removal/trim request packets. Mr. Farris stated that he would like to view the two-way traffic packet first. Mr. Farris stated that he thinks the best way to vote on the trees is to go point by point and vote and if it is unanimous move on. Mr. Farris stated that if it isn't unanimous and someone has an issue the tree should be discussed. Mr. Roulston stated that he does not currently know what the plan is as far as replacing trees that are removed. Mr. Roulston stated that he cannot make a decision on the removal and trimming of trees because he does not know what the plans are for replacement. Mr. Roulston stated that the only options are to judge trees based on the usual criteria, or be a stamp for the city and approve the removals and trimmings or to table the trees until the city can present the Tree Commission with the plans for the project. Mr. Roulston stated that without knowing what the bigger picture of the project is, he does not see how the Tree Commission members can go through the list and make a decision. Mr. Roulston also stated that with only one weeks notice, he did not think it was possible for the Tree Commission to make a decision on such a long list of trees. Mr. Roulston stated that he did not think the Tree Commission could make a decision on the trees. Mr. Roulston stated that he thinks the only options are saying no and holding up the project or saying yes and not being a part of the decision. Ms. Scully stated that the leaves are not on the trees yet so how will they know how much to trim. Ms. Scully stated that she thinks this is something that the Tree Commission should wait and make a decision on when the leaves are on the trees. Ms. Major stated that some of the trees will be deformed if the large branches are taken off. Ms. Stickley asked if the trimmings were for truck clearance. Tom Hoy stated that traffic will be re-routed near the curb when construction is taking place in the center of the street. Mr. Farris stated that the reason there are 70 trees on the list is that after discussion with Tim Stern and Tom Hoy, they decided the best thing to do was to follow the City Code. Mr. Farris stated that he was the one who asked that this format be followed. Mr. Farris asked Tom Hoy if there is enough time to table the trees until the members could get a better understanding of the project. Tom stated that the construction will be starting after the Apple Blossom Festival. Mr. Farris stated that the April Tree Commission meeting could be moved to the previous Thursday, April 16, 2009 and if the trees are tabled the members would have more time to make a decision. Mr. Farris stated that he would meet with Perry Eisenach, Tom Hoy and the City Manager to see if there is a way this request can be averted. Mr. Farris stated that if the City staff wants the Tree Commission members to evaluate the request exactly the way it is laid out then that is the way they will do it, but tabling it will give them more time to make a decision. Ms. Scully asked Tom Hoy if it would be possible to walk the project route to get a better idea of what is planned. Tom stated that he could get a truck to drive along to better understand the needed clearance. Mr. Roulston stated that he still thinks the Tree Commission members need to be shown the big picture. Mr. Roulston stated that the members need an explanation of why the trucks will be driving close to the trees. Mr. Roulston stated that the members need to know what the planting plan is before they can make a decision. Tom stated that there is not a planting plan yet because the City staff does not know

where the trees can fit in and the City staff is not going to make a decision on plantings until the Tree Commission reviews a plan and endorses it. Mr. Farris stated that Perry Eisenach promised to present the planting plan to the Tree Commission once it is in place. Mr. Farris stated that water and sewer mains will be replaced and sidewalks will be replaced and it would be impossible to predict until the project is near completion, where trees can be planted. Mr. Farris stated that he would set up a meeting with City staff on site at the best time for Tree Commission members so that the staff could show the Commission members what they need and the members can ask questions. Ms. Scully asked if these recommendations are from City staff or the construction company who will be performing the work. Tom Hoy stated that the recommendations are from City staff that has walked the route.

Mr. Farris made a motion to table the special request for the Braddock Street and Cameron Street two-way project until the April meeting and move the April meeting up to April 16, 2009; seconded by Ms. Scully, motion was approved.

Ms. Scully made a motion for Mr. Farris to contact City staff to better understand the two-way project; seconded by Ms. Stickley, motion was approved.

24 S. Washington Street

Mr. Roulston made a motion to deny removal of the tree located at 24 S. Washington Street; seconded by Ms. Scully, motion was approved.

135 N. Braddock Street

Mr. Roulston made a motion to approve removal of the tree located at 135 N. Braddock Street; seconded by Ms. Christen, motion was approved.

710 S. Cameron Street

Ms. Stickley made a motion to deny removal of the tree located at 710 S. Cameron Street; seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

104 Peyton Street

Ms. Major made a motion to remove the tree located at 104 Peyton Street; seconded by Ms. Christen, motion was approved.

4 Peyton Street

Mr. Roulston made a motion to trim the tree located at 4 Peyton Street; seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

818 S. Stewart Street

Ms. Major made a motion to deny removal of the tree located at 818 S. Stewart Street; seconded by Ms. Stickly, motion was approved.

818 S. Stewart Street (Handley Blvd. side)

Mr. Roulston made a motion to remove the tree located at 818 S. Stewart Street (Handley Blvd. side); seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

220 Handley Boulevard

Mr. Roulston made a motion to remove the tree located at 220 Handley Boulevard; seconded by Ms. Christen, motion was approved.

210 Handley Boulevard

Ms. Major made a motion to remove the tree located at 210 Handley Boulevard; seconded by Ms. Christen, motion was approved.

215 Roszel Road

Ms. Stickley made a motion to remove the tree located at 215 Roszel Road; seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

Planting Suggestions

Ms. Major asked if the members had a chance to walk their areas to come up with planting suggestions. Ms. Major stated that the members could make a list of addresses in their area that need a tree planted.

Comments from Commission Members:

- 1) Ms. Major stated that Bartlett did some experiments with tree plantings and they found that if you put a six inch layer of large gravel and then pour the sidewalk on top of that, the roots of the trees do not push up the sidewalks. Ms. Stickley stated that she believes it is an eighteen inch layer of gravel. Ms. Stickley also stated that the Tree Commission members should mention this fact to Perry Eisenach before the new sidewalks and trees are installed for the two-way project.
- 2) Ms. Scully stated that the information that Mr. Roulston passed out was very interesting. Ms. Scully suggested a meeting to discuss the tree canopy. Ms. Major stated that they would plan a meeting for mid-May or add an hour to the May regular meeting.

Comments from City Staff:

- 1) Tim Stern passed out the staff report for the month of February and a canopy report.
- 2) Tim Stern stated that the City has a \$2,500 grant for Tree Canopy goal setting.

Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Stickley made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Roulston, the meeting was adjourned.

**CITY OF WINCHESTER
TREE COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2009
SUBMITTED MARCH 26, 2009**

This report is a summary of contractor expenses and an activity listing of trimmings, plantings, removals and stump grindings for the month of February 2009.

**EXPENSES REPORT
(Billings for February 2009)**

CONTRACTOR TRIMMINGS:	CONTRACTOR PLANTINGS:	CONTRACTOR REMOVALS:	TOTAL:
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

ACTIVITY REPORT

TRIMMING:	PLANTINGS:	REMOVALS:	STUMP GRINDING:
1404 S. Loudoun St. x2		Intersection of Pleasant Valley/Papermill (in ditch)	307 Handley Ave.
501 Fairmont Ave.		Woodland Ave (beside I-81)	Across from 814 S. Washington St.
741 Woodland Ave.		315 W. Whitlock Ave.	Beside 101 Millwood Ave.
727 Woodland Ave.		220 Parkway St.	803 S. Cameron St.
708 Woodland Ave.		Across from 209 Liberty Ave.	Across from 700 S. Cameron St.
704 Woodland Ave.		515 Bellview Ave.	612 S. Cameron St.
824 National Ave.		307 Handley Ave.	522 S. Cameron St.
823 National Ave.		305 N. Braddock St.	516 S. Cameron St.
821 National Ave.		Across from 814 S. Washington St.	422 S. Cameron St.
812 National Ave.		716 Woodland Ave.	411 S. Cameron St.
809 National Ave.		Corner of Wayland/Merrimans Ln.	408 S. Cameron St.
807 National Ave.		Beside 101 Millwood Ave.	215 S. Cameron St. (tree on the corner)
803 National Ave.		803 S. Cameron St.	206 S. Cameron St.
Corner of Parkway/Cork		Across from 700 S. Cameron St.	203 S. Cameron St.
560 Bellview Ave. x2		612 S. Cameron St.	202 S. Cameron St.
554 Bellview Ave. x2		522 S. Cameron St.	131 S. Cameron St.
Median on Glaze Ave. x9		516 S. Cameron St.	125 S. Cameron St.
Across from 116 Piccadilly St. x2		422 S. Cameron St.	122 S. Cameron St.
		411 S. Cameron St.	119 S. Cameron St.

568 Bellview Ave.		408 S. Cameron St.	118 S. Cameron St.
570 Bellview Ave. x3		215 S. Cameron St. (tree on the corner)	112 S. Cameron St.
569 Bellview Ave. x2		206 S. Cameron St.	50 S. Cameron St.
1020 Woodland Ave. x2		203 S. Cameron St.	47 S. Cameron St.
1008 Woodland Ave. x2		202 S. Cameron St.	42 S. Cameron St.
1004 Woodland Ave. x2		131 S. Cameron St.	106 N. Cameron St.
804 Woodland Ave. x3		125 S. Cameron St.	1 S. Cameron St.
317 Opequon Ave.		122 S. Cameron St.	
313 Opequon Ave.		119 S. Cameron St.	
321 Opequon Ave.		118 S. Cameron St.	
325 Opequon Ave.		112 S. Cameron St.	
333 Opequon Ave.		50 S. Cameron St.	
343 Opequon Ave.		47 S. Cameron St.	
345 Opequon Ave.		42 S. Cameron St.	
349 Opequon Ave.		106 N. Cameron St.	
353 Opequon Ave.		1 S. Cameron St.	
357 Opequon Ave.			
901 Opequon Ave.			
905 Opequon Ave.			
Corner Wash/Boscawen St.			
15 S. Washington St. x3			
21 S. Washington St. x2			
103 S. Washington St.			
117 S. Washington St.			
119 S. Washington St. x4			
205 S. Washington St.			
315 S. Washington St.			
311 S. Washington St.			
308 S. Washington St.			
408 S. Washington St.			
423 S. Washington St.			
500 S. Washington St.			
521 S. Washington St. x2			
510 S. Washington St.			
518 S. Washington St. x2			
521 S. Washington St. x2			
600 S. Washington St. x2			
603 S. Washington St.			
Corner Wash/Amherst x2			
Handley Blvd. x4			
95 Trees	0 trees	35 trees	26 stumps